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ABSTRACT

Activities and a narrative which focus on Delaware's seashore are contained in this book for elementary school age students. A graphically illustrated story is related and activities are interspersed throughout the narrative account. Several marine organisms are identified and beach phenomena are highlighted in the story. Student exercises include: a maze activity; beach word search; shell and sand crafts; word scramble; crossword puzzle; beach scavenger hunt lists; and materials for beach bingo. (ML)

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Exploring the Delaware Seashore
A Story & Activity Book

BEACH FUN

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Story: Mary V. Sprague Illustrations: Mig Reardon

Children's Beach House, Inc.

Your purchase of this book will help the **Children's Beach House, Inc.** make life better for another special child. Thank you.

The **Children's Beach House** would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their advice and help on this book: Linda B. Cooper, Marguerite M. Govatos, Chere N. Jarrell, Bruce Medeiros, Rose Marie Wright and the Lydia C. duPont Fund.

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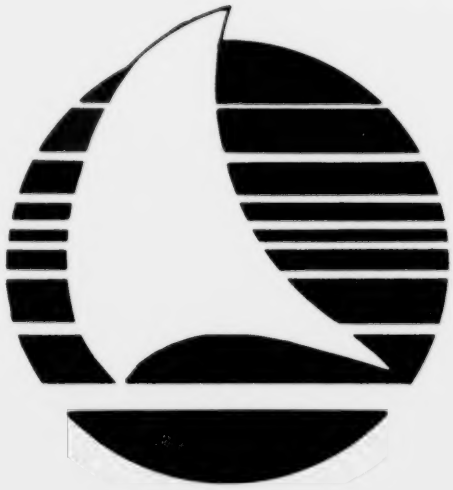
Exploring the Delaware Seashore
A Story and Activity Book

BEACH FUN



Story: Mary V. Sprague
Illustrations: Mig Reardon
Editing: Helen Q. Holden
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It had been a beautiful morning on the water. The family was looking forward to eating the blue crabs they had caught in the lazy marsh creek. Little Bucket sat quietly in the corner of the dinghy, holding his cargo of carefully wound crab lines. Just a few more minutes and they'd be tied up at the dock.

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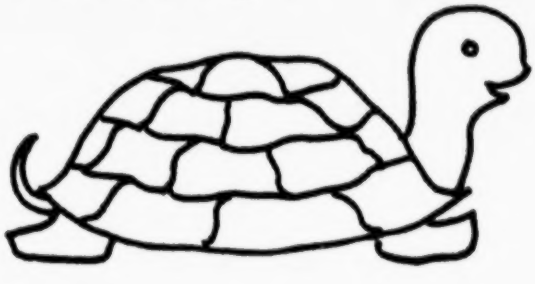
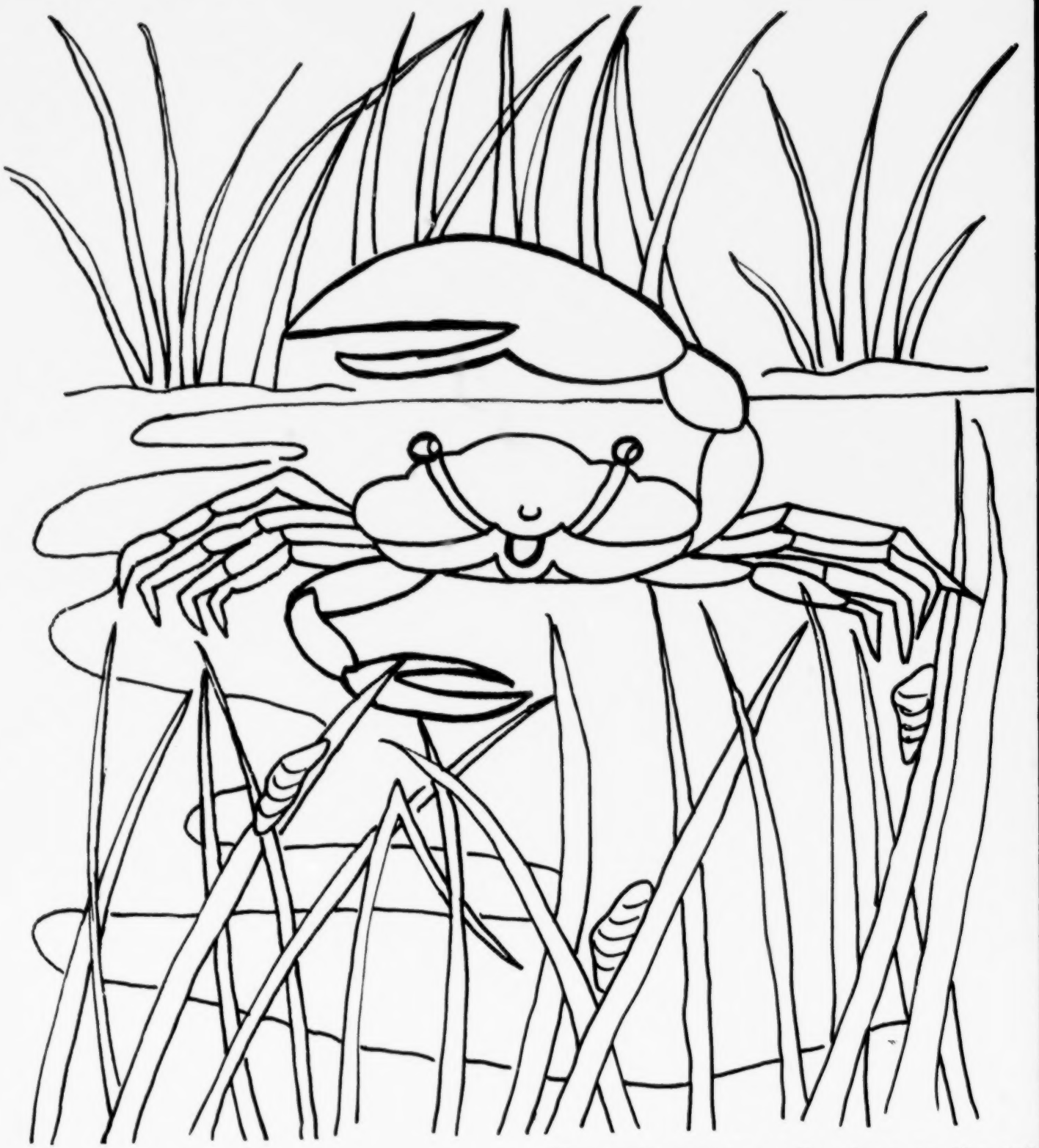
Suddenly Ben, the dog, was startled by the sight of a large terrapin rolling from the muddy bank into the creek. Thinking that someone had thrown a stick for him to retrieve, he made one giant leap into the creek. S-P-L-A-S-H went the dog and K-E-R-S-P-L-A-S-H went the boat. The family was so busy shouting and laughing and holding on that no one noticed when Little Bucket bounced out and bobbed away in the winding creek. No one, that is, except Jason, the youngest member of the family. "My bucket! There goes my bucket!" wailed Jason. But even as he shouted, the bucket bobbed around the bend and out of sight.

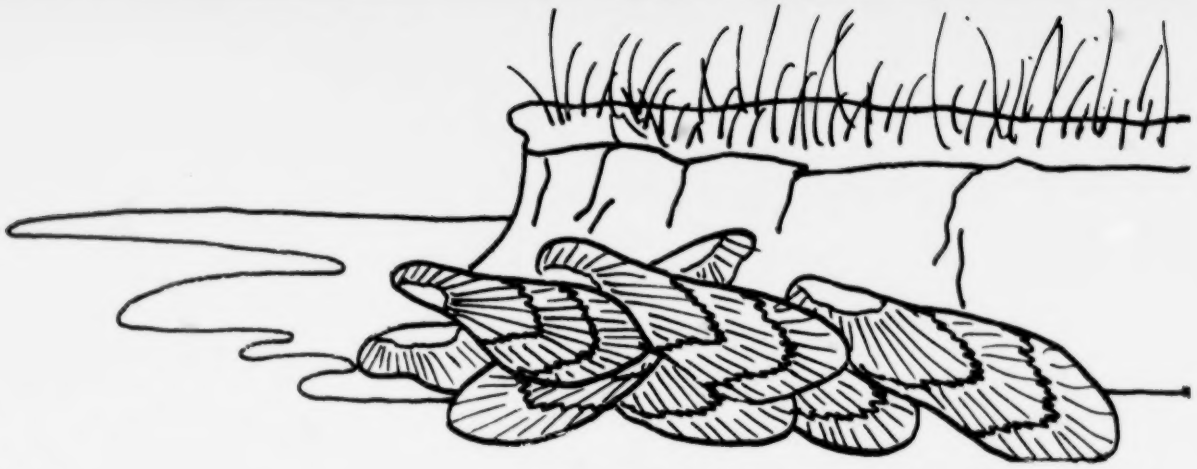
"Oh my," thought Little Bucket, "I've never been away from the family all by myself before. What will I do?" But all Little Bucket could do was relax and enjoy the ride as the creek carried him through the quiet salt marsh toward the bay.



Around each bend was a new surprise. Lively fiddler crabs waved their awkward claws from the bank, then disappeared into muddy holes.



Tiny salt marsh snails clung to the tall cordgrass.



Large beds of ribbed mussels sat tightly closed, waiting to be covered by the next high tide.

A graceful heron stood statue-like, ready to snatch an unsuspecting fish for dinner.

d himself in more water than he'd ever seen!

Before he knew it Little Bucket found hims, open Delaware Bay. Fishing boats full of
The creek had emptied into the great, oper om a morning on the water. Sailboats,
happy people were coming back from a gracefully across the waves.
windsurfers, and catamarans scooted grac

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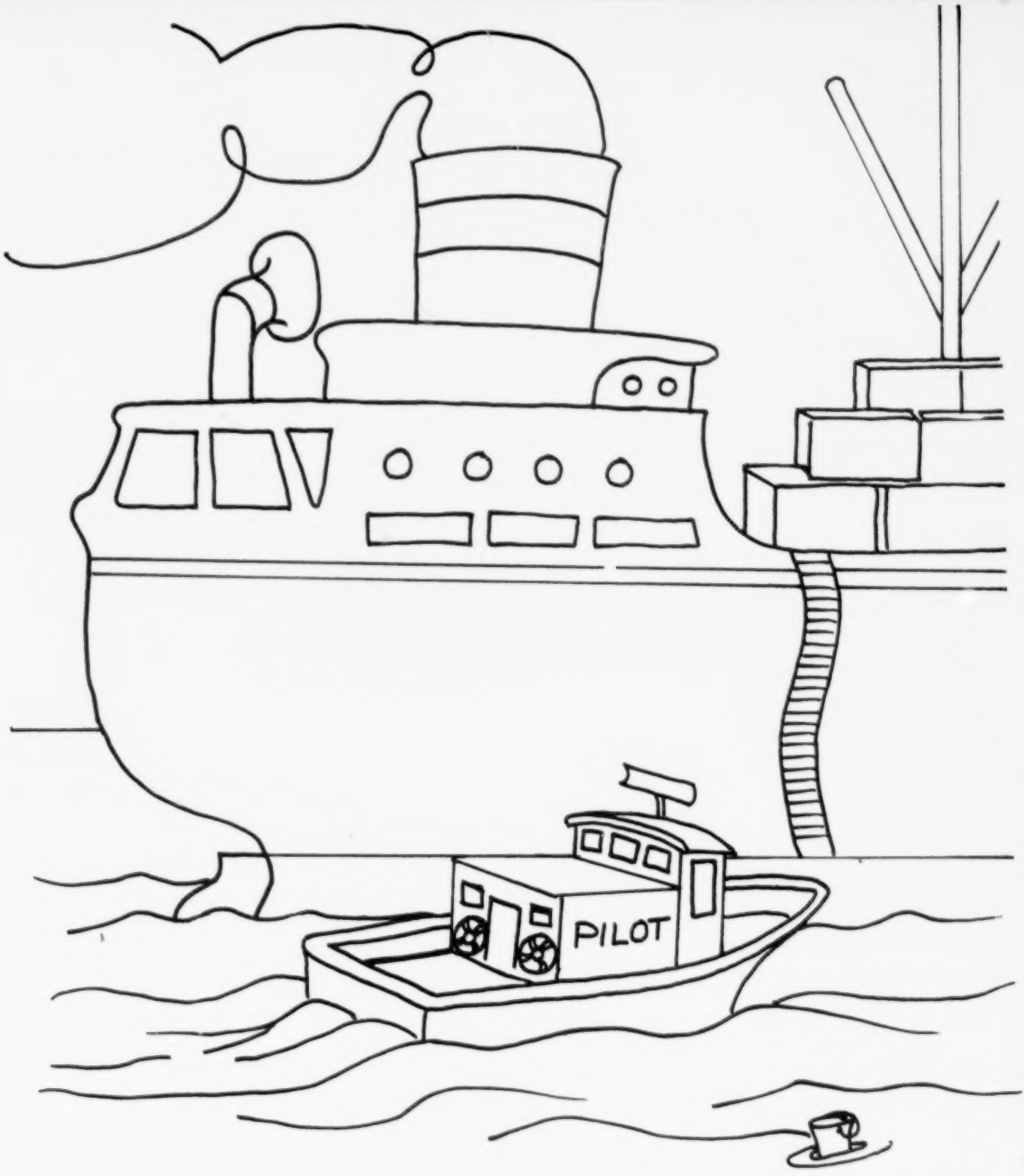


As the current carried Little Bucket farther out into the Bay, he saw more boats — large container ships with cargoes of multicolored "boxes" the size of tractor trailers, oil tankers heavily loaded and sitting low in the water, and smaller boats ferrying pilots to and from the ships waiting to be navigated up the Bay.

A seagull plopped down onto a nearby wave, curiously eyeing the bucket. "You'd better be careful, Mr. Bucket! If you tip much further, you'll fill with water and we'll never see you again."

"Gee, I guess you're right," said Little Bucket. "I'll be more careful. I just hope I don't get carried out to the edge where the water meets the sky. I'm afraid of falling off!"

"I can tell you haven't been here before!" answered the gull, smugly. "I know all about this place. Why don't I show you around?" And off they flew.

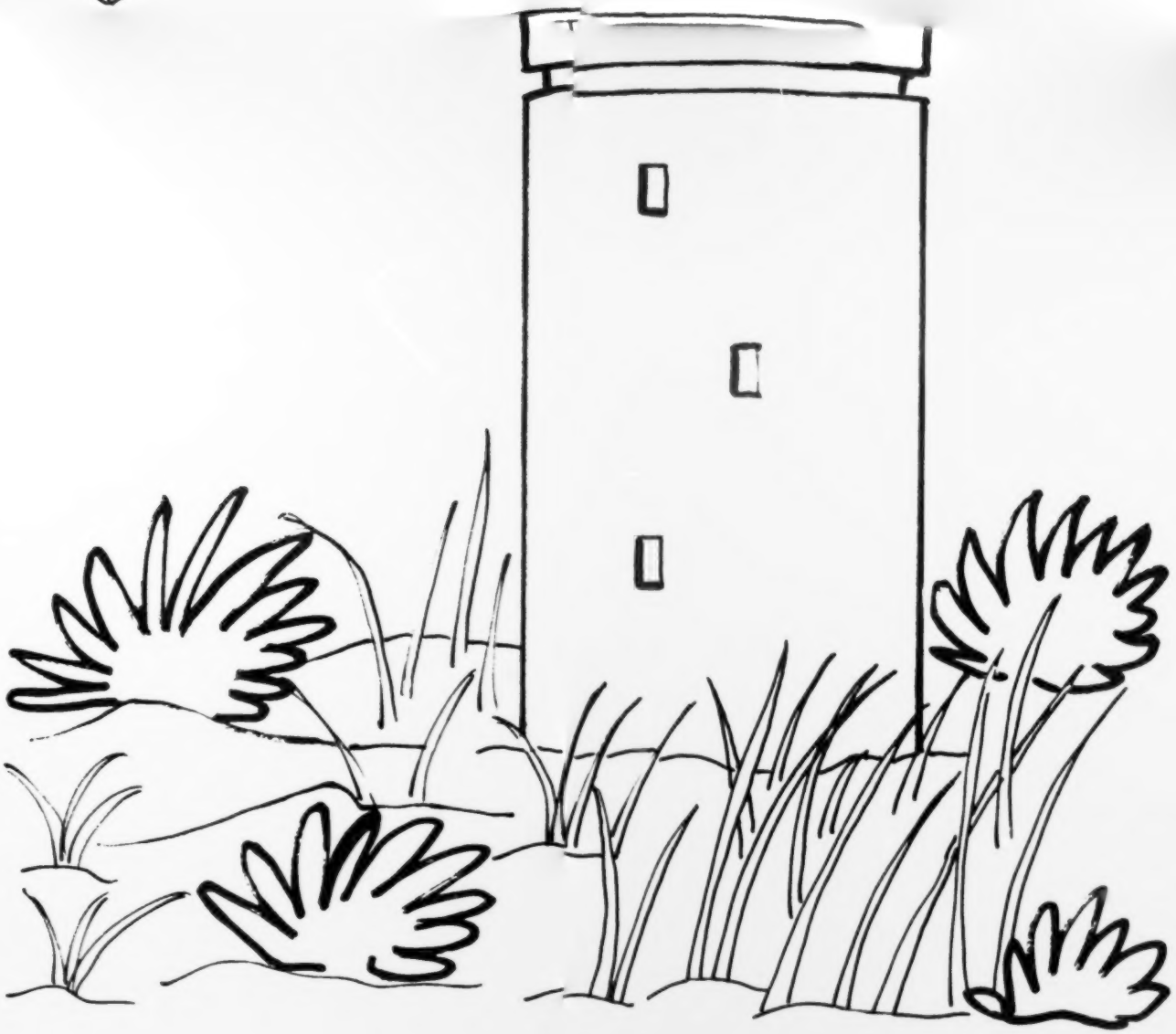
Looking down, Little Bucket noticed a high, white ship carrying many cars. "Seems like a funny place for a parking garage."

"That's not a parking garage," replied the seagull. "It's called a ferry boat, and it goes back and forth between land places, carrying people and cars. The people park their cars on the bottom deck and sit up top."

"Aren't they afraid of falling off the edge of the Bay when they go out so far?" Little Bucket asked.

"Oh, they won't fall off. I've followed that ferry all the way to the other side of the Bay to a place called Cape May," replied the seagull. "The Bay is just the wide end of the Delaware River."

"Those lumps you see down there are big piles of rocks. People put them there to break up the huge sheets of ice that sometimes float towards shore in the winter. People also made those long rock walls called breakwaters. They protect ships and the shore from big waves. The tower at the end of each one is called a lighthouse. The lights and foghorns help ship captains find their way at night and in bad weather."

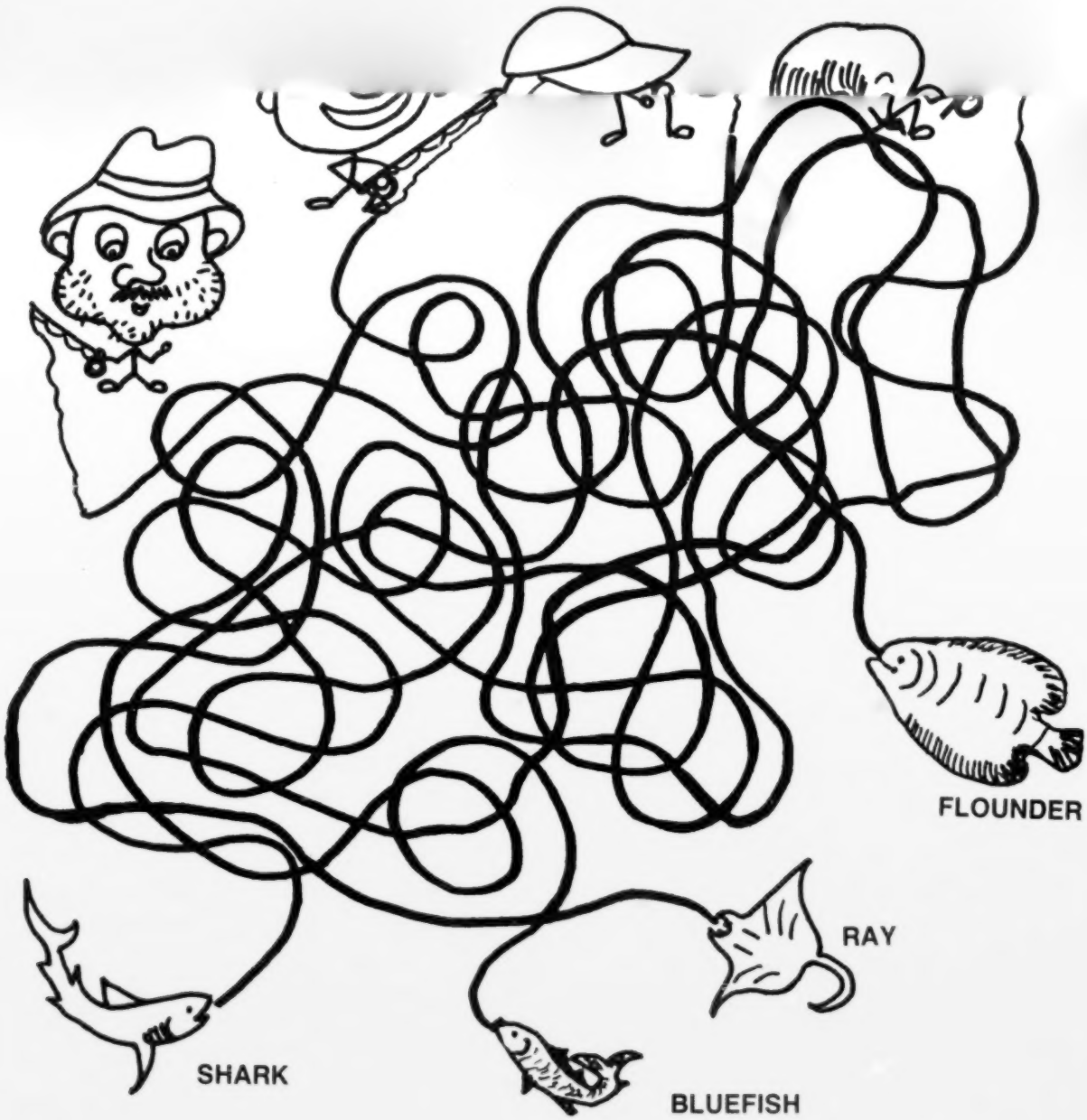


The seagull was enjoying his job as tour guide. He flew over the long arm of land known as Cape Henlopen. He pointed out the World War II submarine watch towers.

Just ahead, Little Bucket noticed huge, white waves breaking on the beach. The gull shouted, "That's the Atlantic Ocean!"

BEACH FUN FISHING MAZE

Follow the tangled lines to find each fisherman's catch.



They flew happily down the coast, watching small groups of swimmers and fishermen enjoying the beach.

REHOBOTH BEACH

They began to see larger crowds, and the town of Rehoboth Beach came into view. "I'm hungry for a snack," said the gull. "Let's go visit the boardwalk!" Down they zoomed.

"Wait for me here while I eat," said the gull. He was eyeing popcorn being spilled by a group of tourists wandering along the boardwalk.

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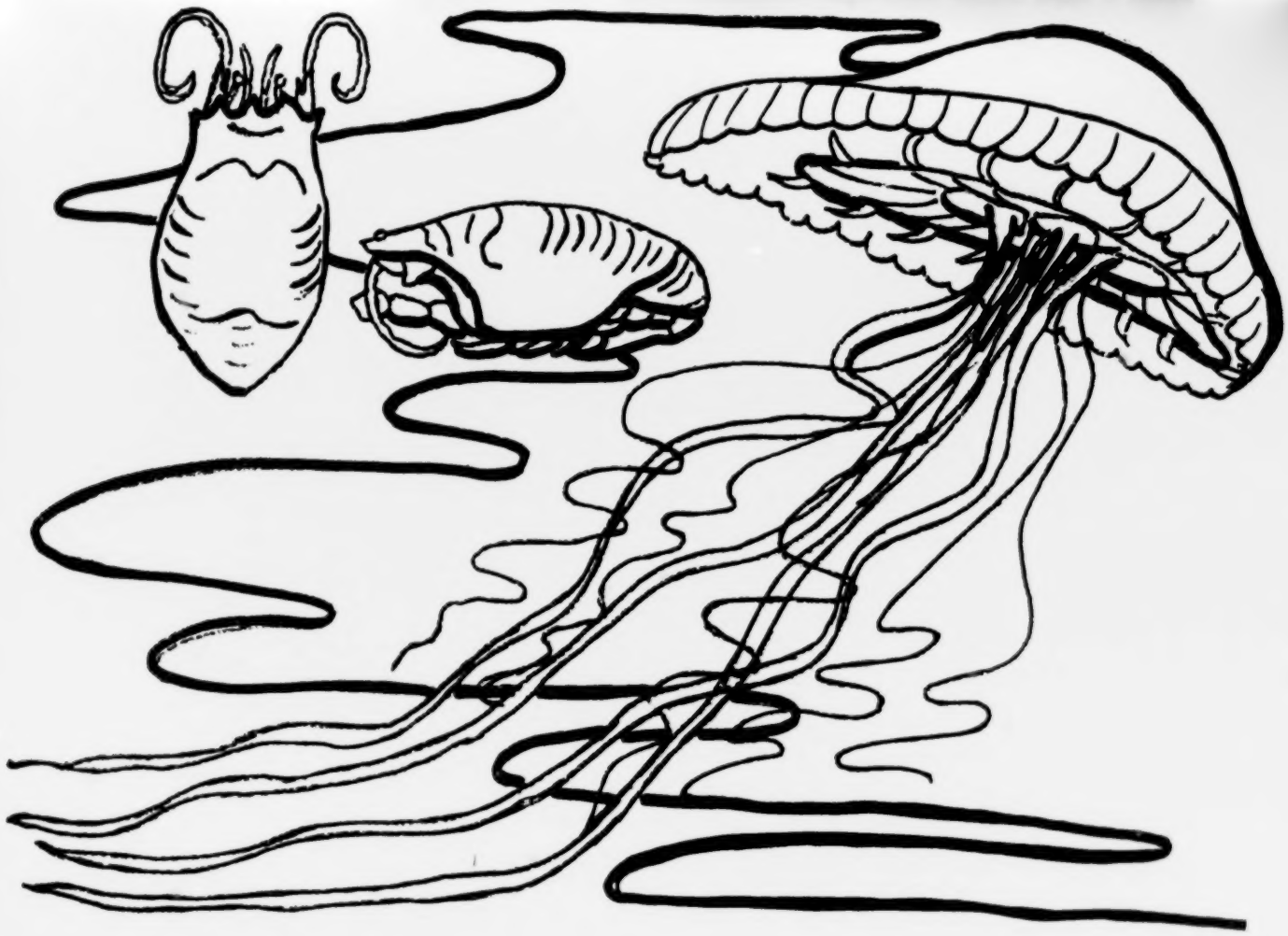
Little Bucket was tired from his ride and welcomed the chance to rest in the warm sand. Suddenly he was snatched up by a group of lively children running toward the water.

"I knew we would find something to put crabs in!" shouted one girl as she dug in the wet sand. In no time she squealed and dropped a wiggling torpedo-shaped animal right into the bucket. "I found one! I found the first mole crab!" she shouted to her friends.

"I found one, too!"

sand and disappeared.



Tiring of their game, the children gently emptied the bucket — sand, water, crabs and all — into the wash of the waves.

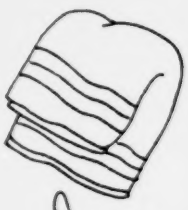
"Look out for that jellyfish. Its tentacles will sting you." With Little Bucket they scooped up the jellyfish and threw it onto the dry sand.

Again using Little Bucket, the children excitedly began creating a sand sculpture. Over and over again they filled and emptied him as they piled the wet sand high. As the afternoon waned, they patted and molded their sculpture. The sandmobile received its finishing touches just when it was time to say good-bye for the day.

The sun was sinking lower in the sky and Little Bucket hadn't seen his friend, the gull, for hours. The beach that had been so packed with people earlier was quickly becoming deserted. What a sight was left behind!

BEACH FUN WORD SEARCH

C	W	L	E	S	R	P	N	O	T	B	U	C	E	J
D	E	F	I	O	L	O	T	I	O	N	E	P	L	R
O	S	S	O	V	I	Y	O	L	N	A	R	O	S	S
S	U	H	B	O	T	J	W	C	G	S	B	E	N	L
E	N	B	Y	I	T	Y	E	F	S	H	O	V	E	L
L	G	G	H	O	L	P	L	L	A	O	E	C	A	U
T	L	P	A	P	E	R	R	H	L	R	Z	W	K	C
S	A	O	T	L	—	Y	A	I	E	Y	I	L	E	K
A	S	E	A	C	B	E	C	A	N	S	F	A	R	L
C	S	P	O	C	U	P	S	Y	A	T	N	I	S	R
D	E	F	R	E	C	M	E	H	O	M	S	E	S	A
N	S	N	A	P	K	I	N	S	N	L	P	N	O	H
A	G	H	I	B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L	T	E
S	E	F	E	O	T	B	N	R	K	O	C	E	E	T



Find the following words in the puzzle above. They may be forward, backward, up, down, or on a diagonal.

PUT THESE IN THE TRASH

napkins
cups
paper
cans

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THESE HOME WITH YOU

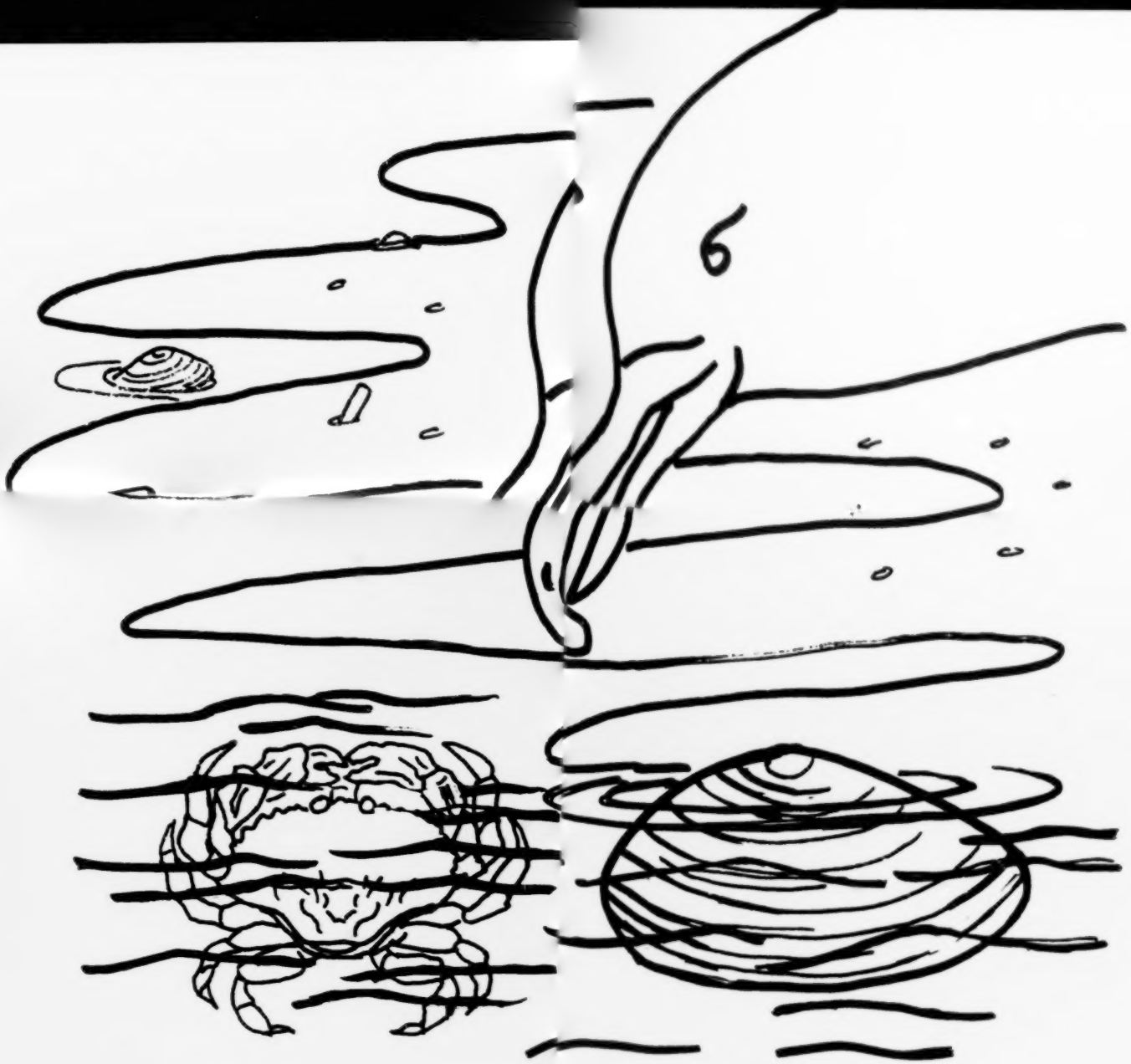
Little Bucket
shovel
sunglasses
beach ball
car
thongs
lotion
sneakers
hat
towel

3 SECRET WORDS
Leave these on the beach

f o _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ s

s a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ e

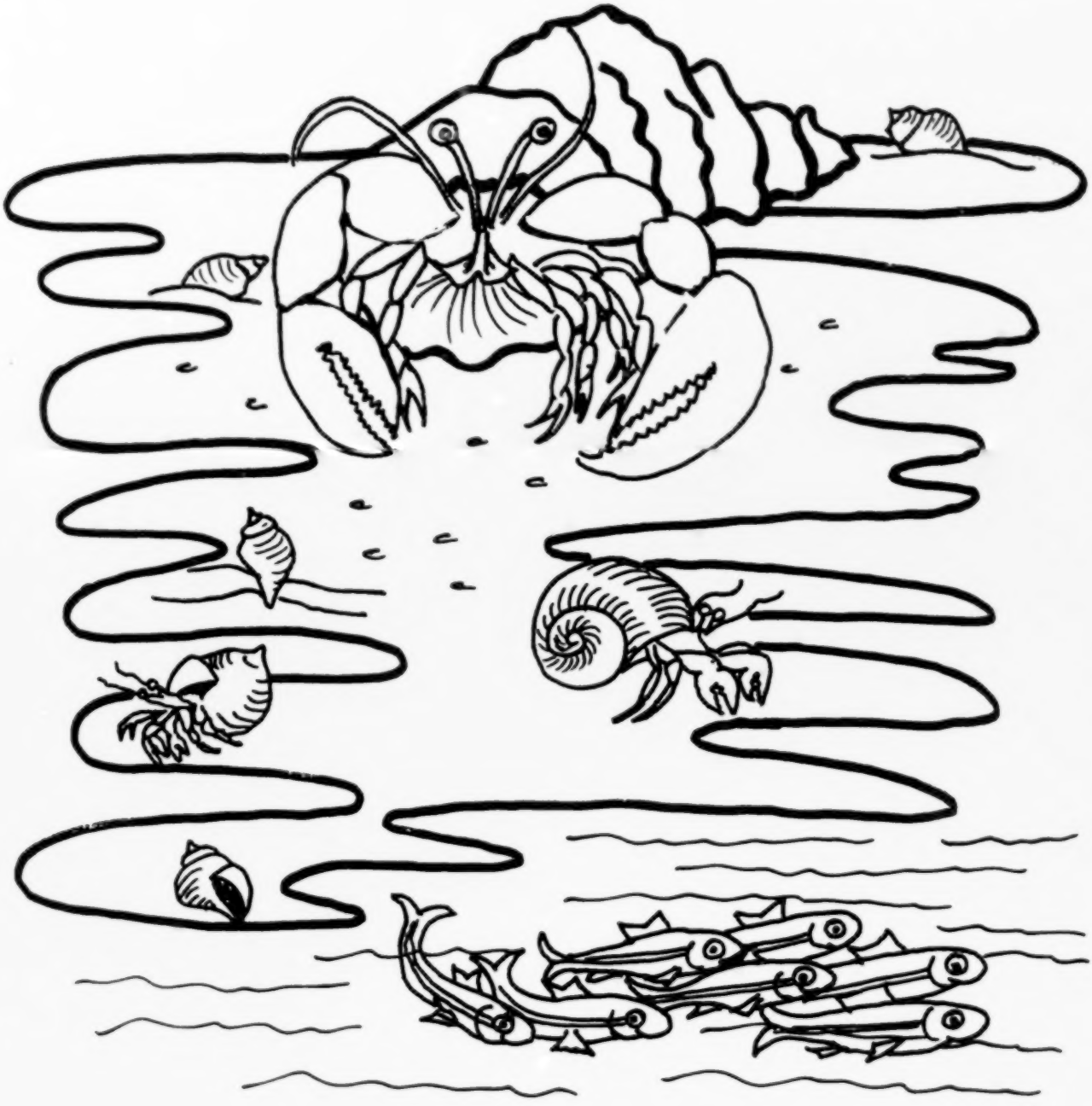
j e _ _ _ _ _ _ _ h



Just then the gull swooped down to grab Little Bucket. "Come on! It's low tide, so the sand bars are up. I'll take you to my favorite eating spot before it gets dark." They flew back up the coast to Cape Henlopen. The gull gently set the bucket on the sand bar and took off again.

"Watch this!" he shouted. He swooped low, picked up a small rock crab and dropped back down beside Little Bucket to pick morsels of meat from the crusty shell.

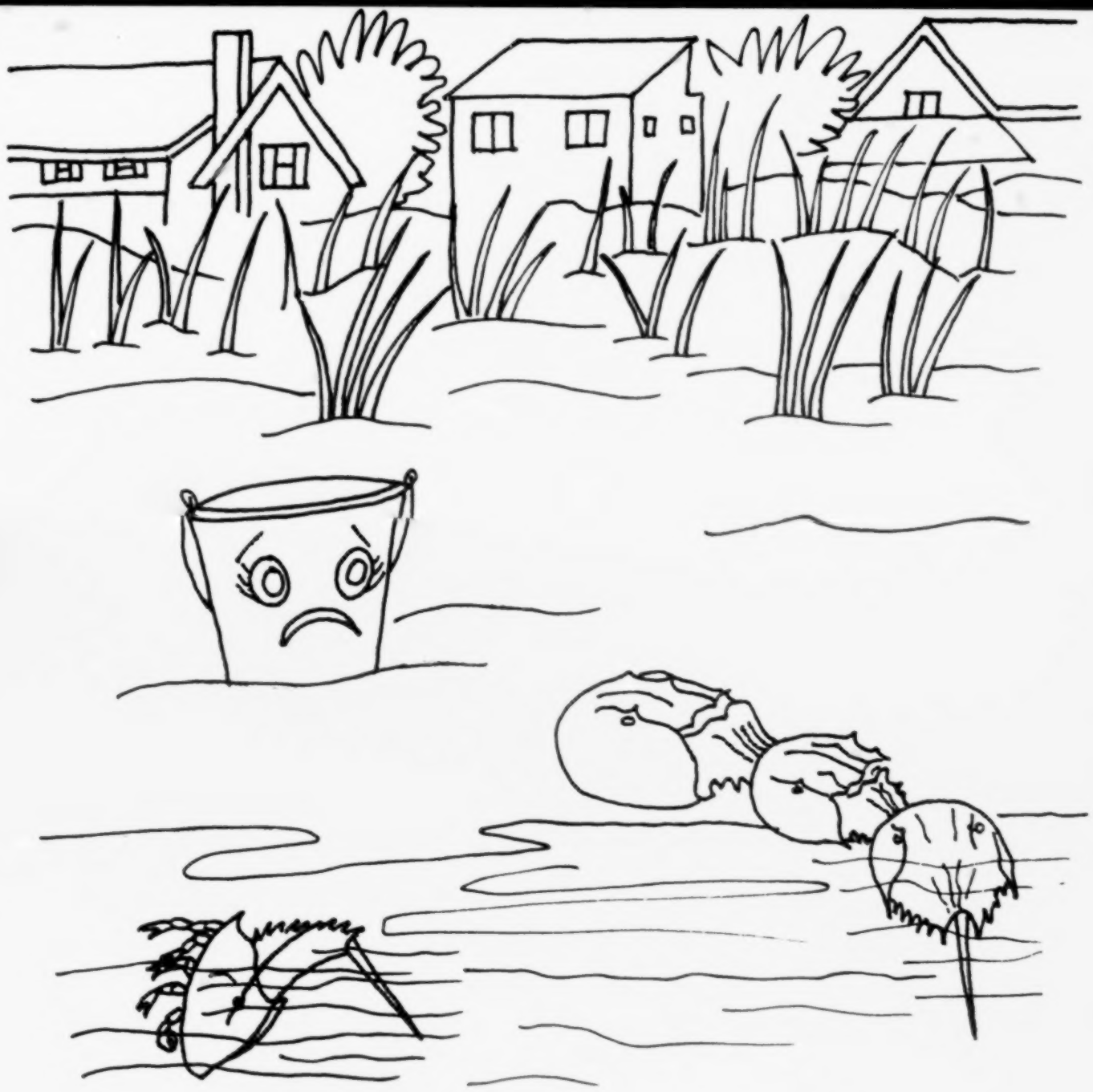
"And now, for another special snack!" The hungry bird poked his beak into the wet sand and pulled up a small hard shell clam. "Clam shells are too difficult for me to crush, but I have a special trick." Flying high with the clam in his beak, the gull dropped it on the road below. A minute later he was back on the sand bar with a broken shell and a tasty clam treat!



Little Bucket noticed that there was life everywhere in the pools of water between the sand bars. Schools of tiny silvery fish darted here and there while crabs picked their way along searching for food. Mud snails that resembled moving pebbles slid slowly along, each on a single muscular foot.

"That one snail shell is moving faster than the others!" exclaimed Little Bucket. "And, it has wiggly legs and not just one foot."

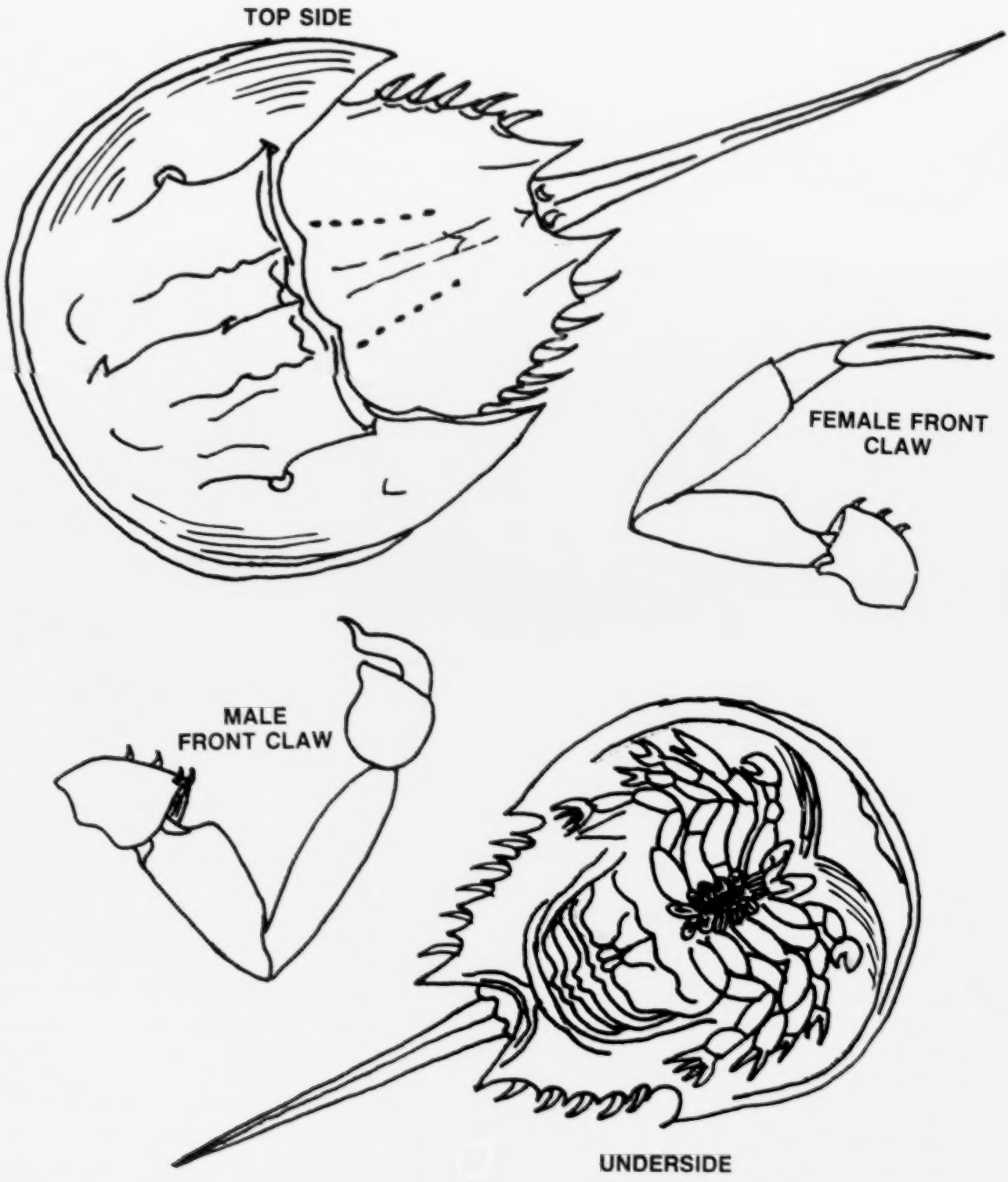
"That, my friend, is a hermit crab. It can't grow a complete shell like other crabs, so it lives in a discarded snail shell and carries it everywhere like a mobile home."



Suddenly, Little Bucket saw a very frightening monster approaching. In fact, it was a train of three creatures with the largest leading the way. "Oh, no!" shouted Little Bucket. "What do we do now?"

"Absolutely nothing," replied the gull. "That's just a horseshoe crab looking for a spot to lay her eggs. The big one is the female. The two smaller ones behind her are the males. They hitch a ride so that when she finishes laying her eggs, they'll be on hand to fertilize them. You know, we have more horseshoe crabs breeding in the Delaware Bay than any place in the whole world! It's a shame that many people think horseshoe crabs are dangerous when they are really harmless creatures. Even that sharp tail is just a rudder for steering in the water and a 'crutch' to help the crab turn over if if gets stuck upside down."

HORSESHOE CRAB



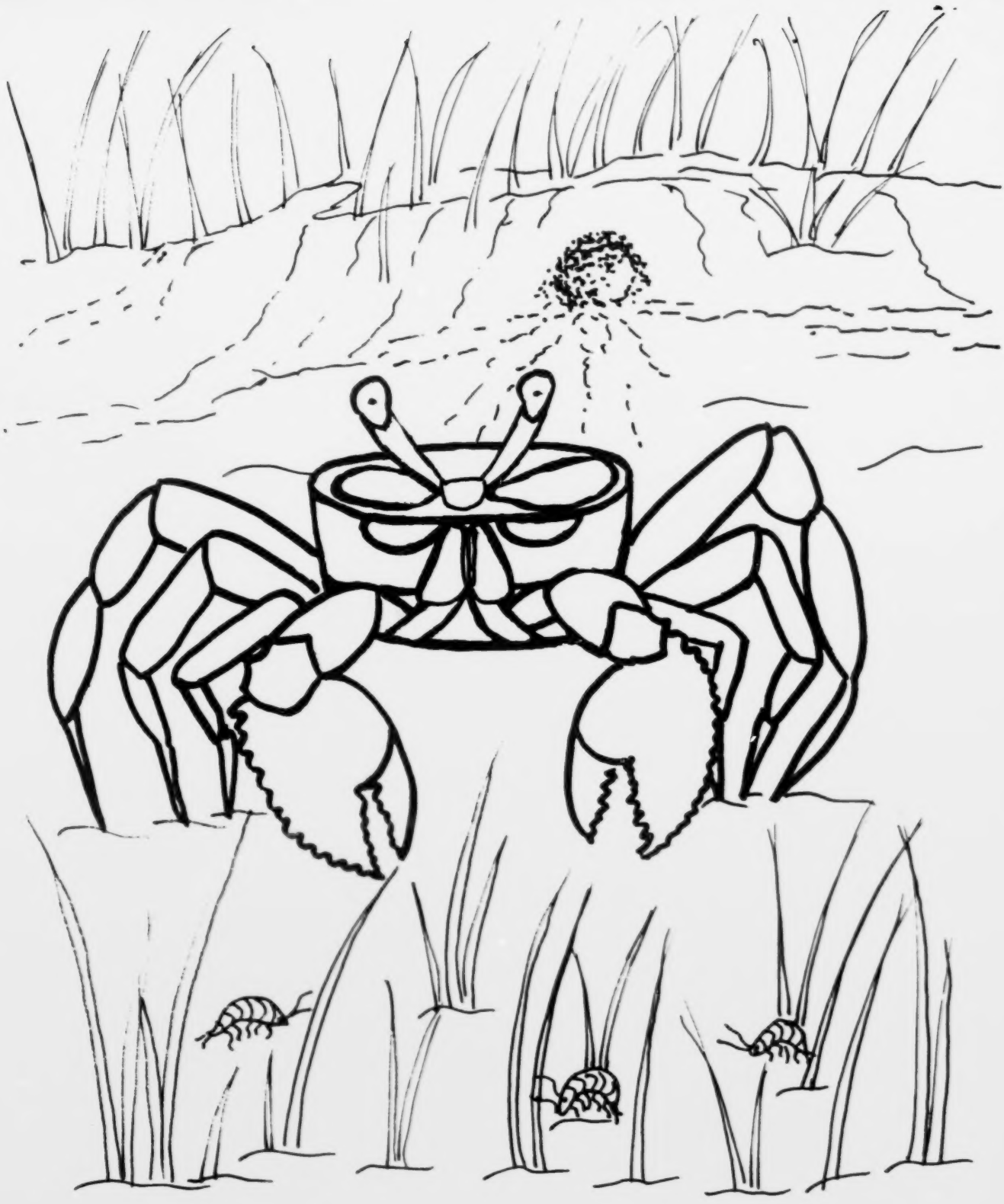
As the sun dropped below the horizon and lights began to twinkle along the shore, the gull finished the last of his dinner. "I enjoyed showing you around. I have to leave, but I'm sure you'll be okay. Maybe we'll run into each other again."

Sadly, Little Bucket said good-bye to his friend as the gull flew off into the gathering darkness. Little Bucket shuddered a little as he thought of spending the night alone on the sand bar.

Lost in his thoughts, Little Bucket hardly noticed the waves closing in around him. All at once, he found himself being picked up and gently carried toward shore. He and the gull had come out at low tide. Now the tide was coming in. Slowly the sand bars disappeared as the water moved back toward land, carrying Little Bucket with it.

Back on the beach Little Bucket was not alone. Pale, bean-shaped creatures hopped in every direction. The sand itself seemed to be jumping! "What's going on?" he asked.

"Those little guys are beach fleas looking for food," rumbled a nearby deep voice.

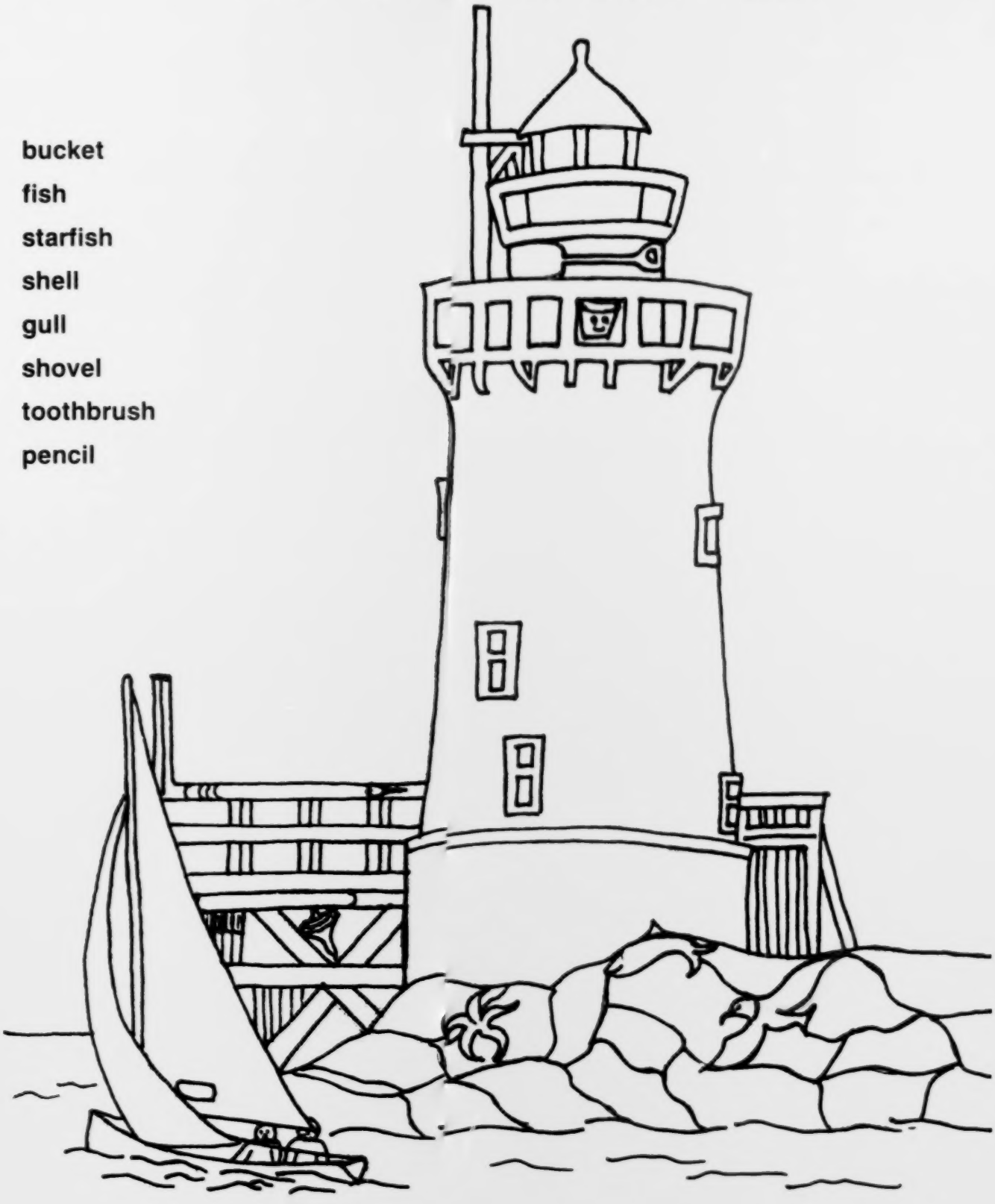


"And who are you?" Little Bucket managed to squeak out unsurely.

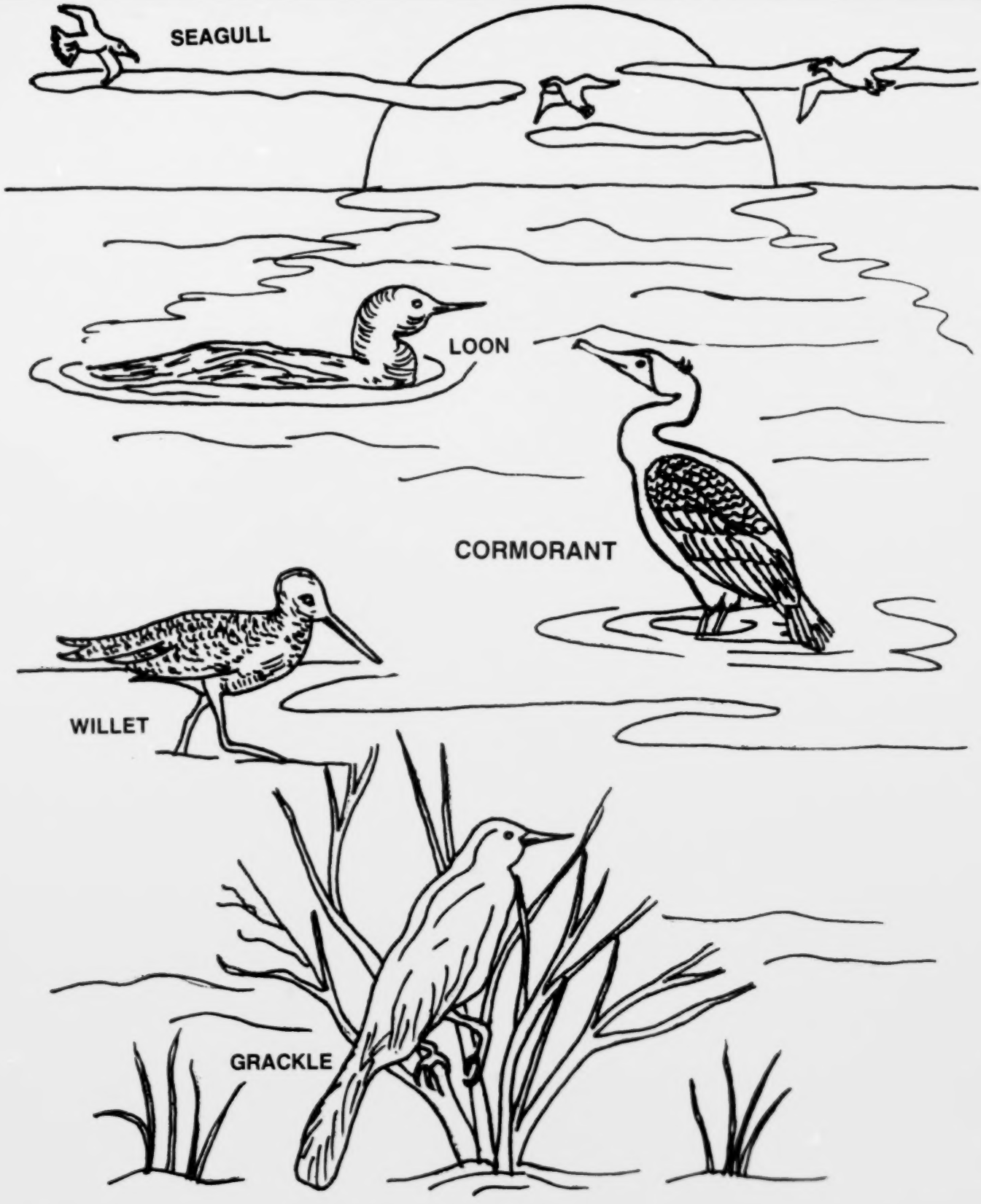
"I'm a ghost crab, and some of those beach fleas will be my dinner tonight. I just came out of my burrow to take a dip and get a snack." With that, he skittered off across the moonlit beach.

FIND THESE HIDDEN ITEMS

bucket
fish
starfish
shell
gull
shovel
toothbrush
pencil



By this time Little Bucket was beginning to get very, very tired. The sound of lapping waves, the distant wail of a foghorn and the regular flashing of the lighthouses soon lulled him to sleep.



Early the next morning Little Bucket was awakened by the sound of distant voices and the activity of hungry birds feeding at the tide line. Two people approached, startling the birds.

"Look, here's a bucket someone left behind. Let's use it to gather some shells and things for the grandchildren to play with indoors today. It looks like it might rain."

So, off Little Bucket went again. Soon he was overflowing with shells, worn pieces of driftwood, shiny beach glass smoothed by sand and water, and long strips of egg cases. The grandparents carried him up the dune path to the parking lot and to a car that looked vaguely familiar.

BEACH FUN WITH SHELLS AND SAND

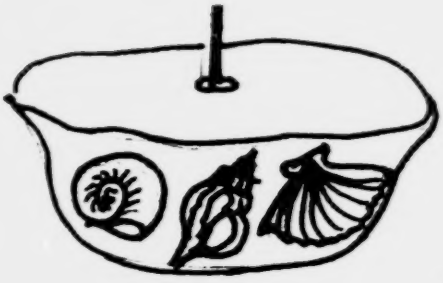
SAND CANDLES

(CAUTION: This activity involves melting and pouring hot wax and should be attempted only with adult supervision.)

You'll need:
Damp sand (on the beach or in a bucket)
Small shells
Popsicle or other stick
Candle wick or stiff string
Melted wax (old candles or paraffin colored with a piece of crayon)

Melt old candles or paraffin in a double boiler. If white wax is used, drop a piece of crayon in the pot to color the wax. Attach the piece of wick or string to popsicle stick with a 2 to 3-inch tail hanging down. Scoop a small hole in the damp sand. Pat sides of hole firmly. This is the mold for your candle. Place shells around the inside of the hole so that the outside of each shell is against the sand.

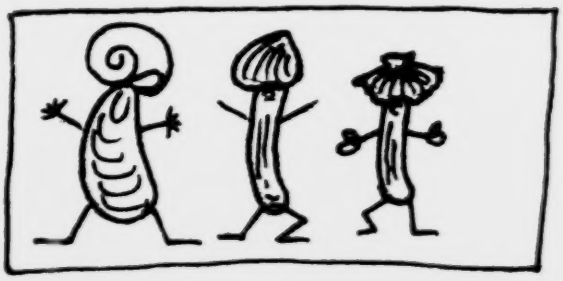
Press the shells into the sand firmly. Have an adult fill the hole with melted wax. Place popsicle stick across the top of the hole so that wick hangs down into melted wax. Leave for several hours to harden. Remove from sand. Brush off loose sand. Remove popsicle stick. Cut wick if necessary.



SHELL SCULPTURE

You'll need:
Shells such as razor clams, jingle shells and scallops
Cardboard or piece of wood
White glue
Markers

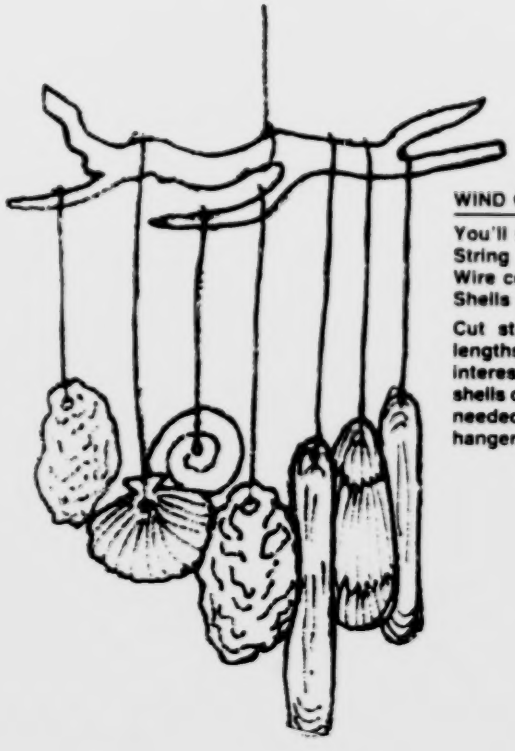
Arrange shells on board or cardboard to make people, animals, boats or other interesting designs. Glue into place. Use markers for eyes and other details.



SHELL NECKLACE

You'll need:
Several small shells with holes in them
A piece of yarn or string to slip easily over your head

Use your imagination to arrange your shells on the string. Tie ends of string together and slip over your head.



WIND CHIMES

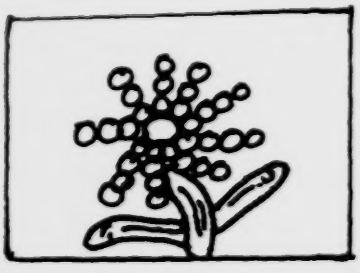
You'll need:
String
Wire coat hanger or driftwood
Shells with holes

Cut string into 7 or 8 different lengths. Bend coat hanger into an interesting shape. Arrange several shells on each string. Tie or knot as needed. Tie string of shells to hanger or driftwood.

SAND PAINTING

You'll need:
Sand Paper White glue
Food coloring Stick or spoon

Using a stick or spoon for mixing, color small amounts of sand with food coloring. Make a design on paper with the glue. Cover glue with different colors of sand. Let dry. Shake excess sand off paper.



Back at their cozy beach cottage the grandfather put Little Bucket on the kitchen table.

A sleepy little boy in pajamas appeared at the door. He took one look at the bucket and began shouting, "You found it! You found it! Look! My name is on the bottom. Where did you find my bucket?"

Grandpa came over with an uncertain look on his face. "We found that bucket on the beach at the Cape this morning. How could it have been carried all the way from the marsh in one day?"

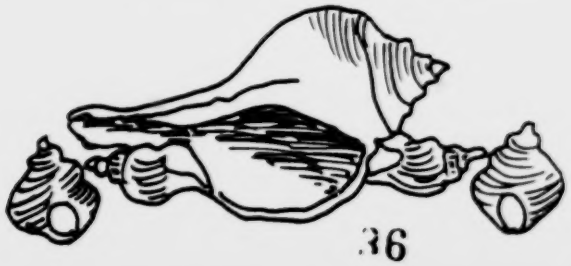
"Oh, I'm so happy to have it back!" Jason cried as the rest of the family came in to see what the commotion was all about.

And Little Bucket was happy, too. He knew what great adventures he'd had, but he was more than content to be back home as part of the family again!

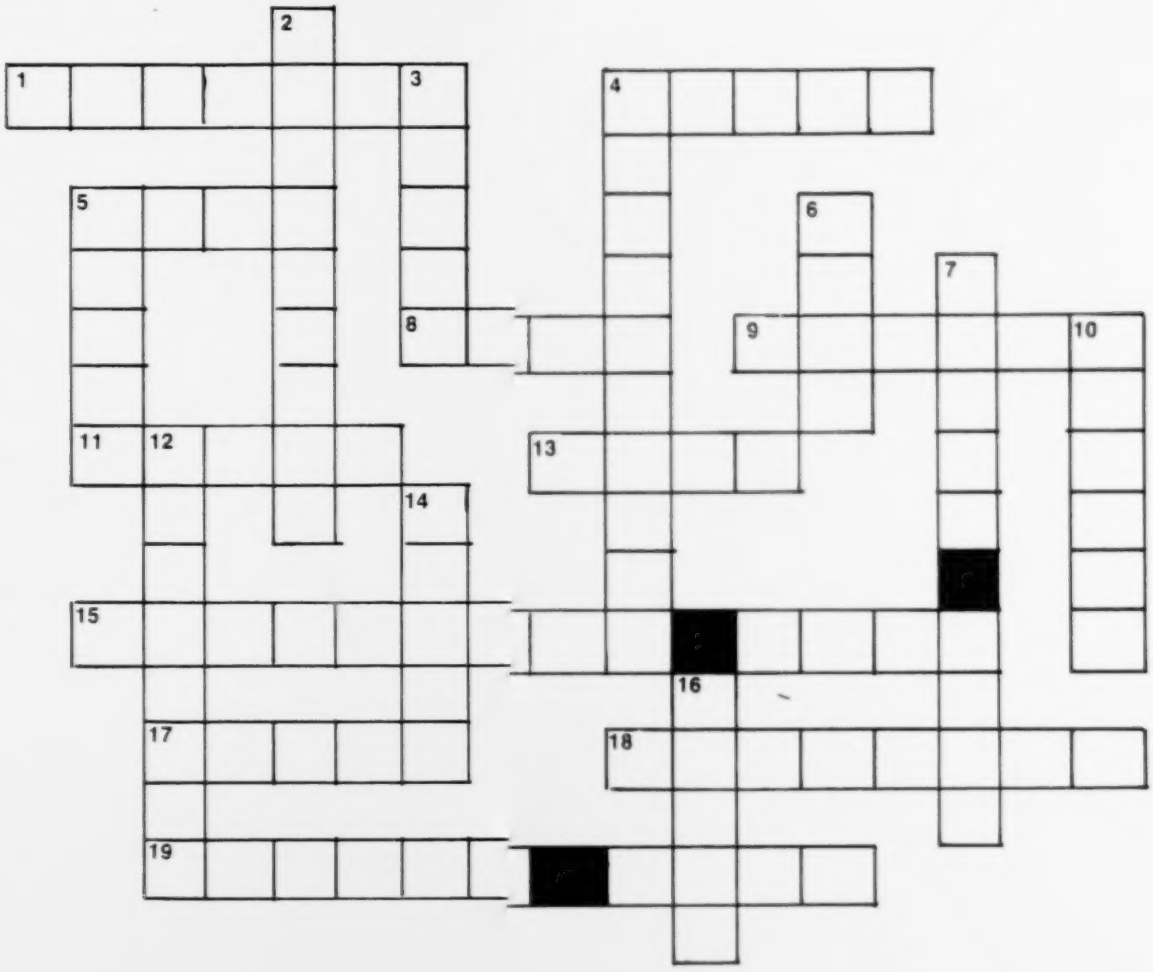
BEACH FUN WORD SCRAMBLE

Little Bucket might have seen all these beach items in his travels. Can you unscramble the letters and discover what they are?

lselh _____	**levhos** _____
dans _____	**ftar** _____
orshhoees brac _____	**ewrta** _____
kbcteu _____	**ylljehfsi** _____
seltac _____	**nroeh** _____
leburaml _____	**utlheogish** _____
etlow _____	**lmca** _____
rudeialgf _____	**sawev** _____
abtos _____	**toonil** _____
nsu _____	**lgaselu** _____
hecab sargs _____	**nsda nued** _____
acbr walc _____	**srnmefaih** _____



BEACH FUN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1. Has ribs and lives along muddy creeks
4. Home of Children's Beach House
5. Bird found at the beach
8. Ocean water tastes like _____
9. Cling to cordgrass in the marsh
11. Litter
13. Torpedo-shaped crab
15. Uses its sharp tail as a rudder
17. Atlantic _____
18. _____ Bay
19. Lives in discarded snail shells

Down

2. Its tentacles sting
3. Boats without motors use _____
4. Helps ships find their way at night
5. A crab that eats beach fleas at night
6. What the beach is made of
7. Ferries pilots to ships
10. Collected along the beach
12. Town with a boardwalk
14. Owner of "Little Bucket"
16. Looks like a parking garage

BEACH FUN SCAVENGER HUNT

1. Bucket
2. Plastic rings from 6-pack
3. Shovel
4. Mole crab
5. Clam shell
6. Whelk egg case
7. Oyster shell
8. Blue crab claw
9. Suntan lotion bottle
10. Beach clay
11. Razor clam shell
12. Feather
13. Empty drink can
14. Scallop shell
15. Driftwood
16. Horseshoe crab tail
17. Whelk
18. Seaweed
19. Slipper shell
20. Mussel shell

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Cut out cards along dotted lines

BEACH FUN SCAVENGER HUNT

See how many items you or your team can find on the beach.

BEACH FUN BINGO CARDS

Cut out cards along dotted lines

B	E	A	C	H
popcorn	hermit	friends	gull	quickly
bank	dunes	waves	guide	horseshoe
cottage	hungry	FREE	shore	bottom
female	Delaware	captains	tankers	little
rudder	family	fish	muddy	beak

B	E	A	C	H
bucket	lighthouse	sailboats	snail	towers
voices	ocean	pebbles	water	burrow
mussels	horizon	FREE	surprise	submarine
morsels	sand	fiddler	male	fleas
ship	crab	edge	heron	dock

B	E	A	C	H
ferry	tide	shell	sculpture	boats
clam	claws	children	favorite	creek
people	tourists	FREE	silvery	eggs
crowds	creatures	boardwalk	marsh	pilots
salt	rock	pajamas	Henlopen	wet

BEACH FUN BINGO CALL SHEET

B	E	A	C	H
bucket	hermit	shell	gull	boats
ferry	lighthouse	edge	guide	towers
popcorn	crab	friends	sculpture	quickly
clam	tide	pebbles	snail	horseshoe
rudder	horizon	waves	shore	burrow
voices	dunes	pajamas	marsh	bottom
cottage	sand	boardwalk	heron	little
mussels	claws	fiddler	surprise	creek
salt	family	fish	muddy	dock
bank	Delaware	sailboats	tankers	pilots
ship	ocean	captains	Henlopen	submarine
crowds	tourists	children	water	wet
people	rock		favorite	beak
morsels	hungry		silvery	eggs
female	creatures		male	fleas

Shells, pebbles or small slips of paper may be used as markers.
Caller covers each word as it is called so the winning card can be checked.

$2.95

Proceeds Benefit Children's Beach House Lewes, Delaware

Founded in 1936 by Lydia C. duPont, the Children's Beach House is a private, non-profit organization serving Delaware's special children. Two unique programs are conducted at Lewes Beach:

A summer resident camp for ambulatory children with speech, language, hearing and orthopedic impairments.

Coastal environmental education for children in Delaware's special classes and schools.

For information write:

Children's Beach House, Inc.
701 Shipley Street
Wilmington, DE 19801